



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

Officers saturate West Wichita to keep drunk drivers off the road

What: DUI Saturation Patrol
When: Saturday, May 6
Who: Wichita Police Department
Where: West Wichita

As an ongoing part of the Wichita Police Department's Traffic Safety Initiative, Officers will be patrolling west Wichita between 11 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, and 3 a.m. on May 7, in an effort to locate intoxicated drivers. "This project is designed to identify impaired drivers on our major thoroughfares in West Wichita and remove them from our roadways" said Sgt. Jerry Quick, Patrol West Bureau.

Officers participating in this enforcement activity will be driving marked police cars with a DUI Task Force sign on the vehicle. Motorists who are suspected of driving under the influence will

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be pulled over and given a field sobriety test, which may be followed by a Breath Alcohol Test. Those drivers found to be over the legal limit of .08 will be arrested.

Wichita has recorded 11 traffic fatalities since the first of the year, with two of them being alcohol or drug related. In 2005, Wichita had nine traffic fatalities, with three of them being alcohol or drug related, for the same time period.

Recent figures released by the federal government show that more people died while driving drunk in 2005 despite record seat belt use, pushing traffic deaths nationwide to a 15-year high.

“We know that there will be a lot of people celebrating Cinco de Mayo over the weekend and we want everyone to have an enjoyable time, but be responsible and if you drink, use a designated driver,” said Sgt. Quick.

This DUI Saturation is just one aspect of the four-prong approach that the Department is using in addressing traffic safety in the city of Wichita. The four aspects of traffic safety include education, enforcement, environment and awareness.

Funding for this enforcement effort was made possible through an Impaired Driver Deterrence Grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation. For more information, please contact Sgt. Jerry Quick or Capt. Terry Nelson at the Patrol West Bureau at 337-9400.